



Sterilizing sensitive materials e.g. Implants and especially intraocular lenses

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Patent Family

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Abstract:

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NOVELTY The process employs homogeneous illumination by UV-VUV (ultraviolet-vacuum ultraviolet) radiation from all sides. Additional antimicrobial treatments may be integrated with this process.

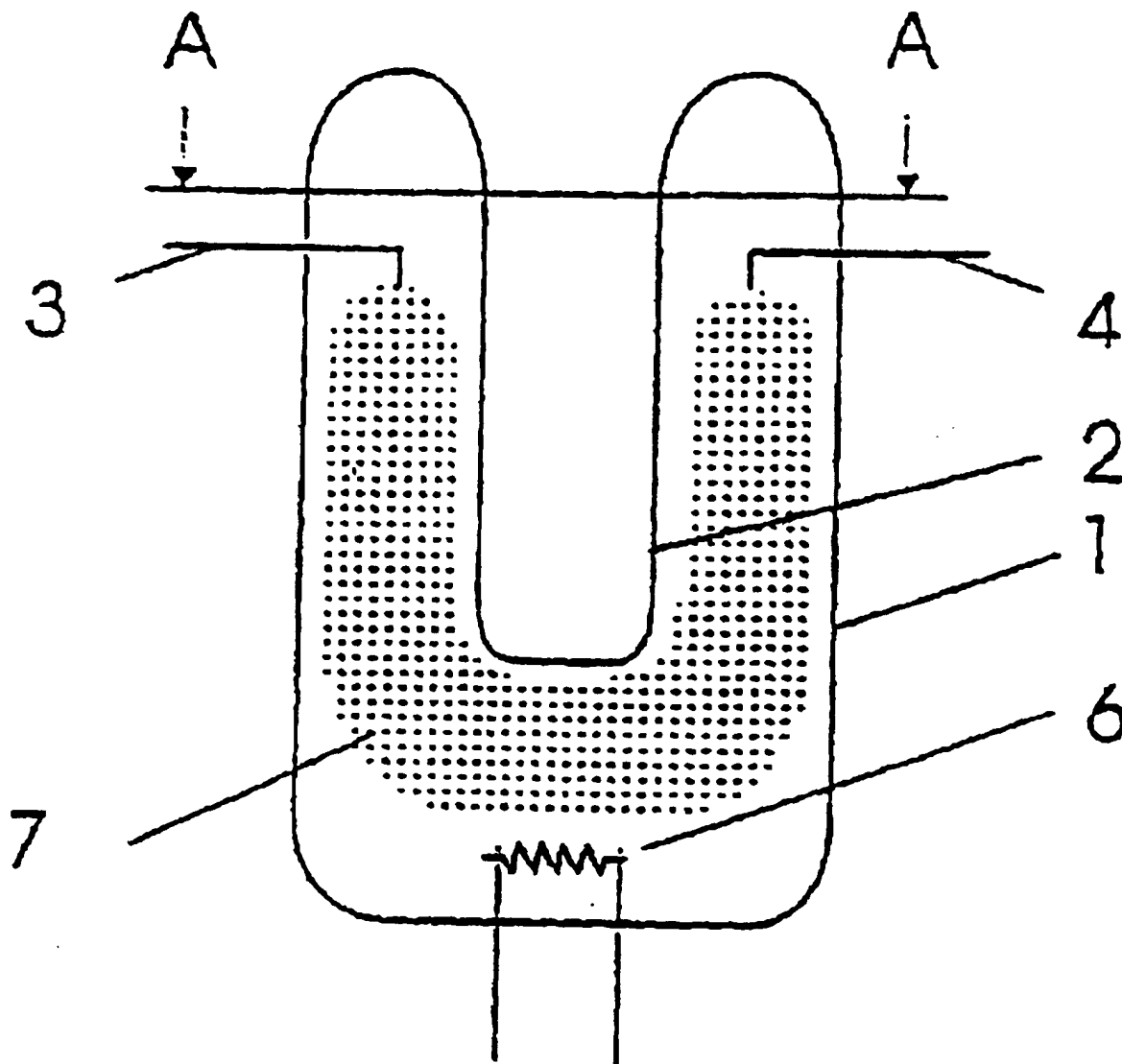
DETAILED DESCRIPTION Preferred features: The UV-VUV is generated by gas discharge plasma surrounding and rotating about the material, avoiding shadows. The material is moved relative to the source, during irradiation. Focusing and reflection are used to concentrate biocidal effect. The material is retained in a transport unit during processing which is UV-VUV transparent. Packages are sealed off in UV-VUV, preventing recontamination dangers. Hydrogen peroxide and/or gamma radiation are used in addition, in quantities not detracting from biocompatibility.

USE An intensive sterilization method used especially in production of implants, e.g. intra-ocular lenses.

ADVANTAGE Numbers of temperature-sensitive and/or gamma radiation-sensitive items can be sterilized, on a production line in a clean room. The method avoids use of ethylene oxide, which is toxic, mutagenic and carcinogenic. Its dangerous side reactions are avoided, in addition to a desorption stage necessitated by its use.

DESCRIPTION OF DRAWING(S) The drawing illustrates the source.

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